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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

**UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE)
Bureau Meeting
Geneva, 16 June 2016, 15.00-16.00**

Bureau Meeting Report - BMR No. 2016/2

Present, CSE Bureau:

Mr. Jürgen Keinhorst, Chair

Vice-Chairs: Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Mr. Talyat Aliev, Mr. Jarad Daniels, Mr. Ihor Didenko (in-person), Mr. Sergio Garribba, Mr. David MacDonald, Mr. Francisco de la Flor Garcia, Mr. Tim Farrell (by phone)

Ms. Miriam Gutzke, Germany, Mr. Bakbergen Koishibayev, Mission of Kazakhstan (both in-person)

Mr. Ramazan Zhampiisov, KazEnergy, Mr. Christian Doetsch, Fraunhofer Institute (by phone)

Secretariat, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division (SED):

Mr. Scott Foster, Director SED, Mrs. Stefanie Held, Ms. Charlotte Griffiths, Mr. Gianluca Sambucini, Mr. Viktor Badaker, Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Ms. Lisa Tinschert, Mr. David Elzinga

Apologies received:

Mr. Jean-Christophe Füg, Mr. Ray Pilcher, Mr. Barry Worthington, Mr. Ulrich Benterbusch.

Main Bureau decisions:

- 25th session of the CSE to be split in two parts to maximise the opportunity of consultation with member States in preparation of the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Astana, Kazakhstan, and the energy ministerial Kazakhstan intends to hold in June 2017
- Dates for the 25th session: 28-30 September 2016 and 19 January 2017 (7 sessions)
- Draft agenda and meeting theme approved
- The next in-person meeting could be held on 27 September 2016, the day before 25th Committee session, if the Bureau so wishes.

Immediate action points:

- Reactions to the planned agenda for the 25th session of the Committee (title theme and types of sessions, attached), immediately to the secretariat please to guide the drafting of the draft provisional agenda to be posted on 20 July 2016 (official parliamentary document deadline)

Main discussion points

Item 1 Pathways to Sustainable Energy (meeting for project donors)

- The Chair requested this discussion to allow all potential project donors that have come forward to date to conclude on a number of areas. Bureau members were invited as the project is conducted under the oversight of the Bureau. Discussion points included: project proposal, terms of reference, funding situation and next steps. The full set of documents can be made available to interested Bureau members, please contact the secretariat.
- Mr Christian Doetsch from the Fraunhofer Institute, Germany, provided an overview of the recent discussions by three modelling organisations to carry out modelling that could propose pathways to sustainable energy in the UNECE region as a basis for future political and technical discussions with UNECE member States. The presentation is attached to these minutes for information and also includes a timeline and deliverables.
- The three project donors have chosen different funding modalities, as a consequence, the project proposal will be presented to the UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) on 16 September 2016 should the respective funding letter(s) be with the secretariat before 16 August 2016. A tender or grant process will then be launched to choose respective modelling agencies.
- Participants stressed the importance of defining the geographical scope, and the Bureau wishes close collaboration with the modelling agencies in this respect. The Bureau further emphasised the wish that models must reflect political priorities from countries.
- The discussion concluded that all three modelling agencies would be working with a harmonized approach, model and data set and agree to involve the Bureau and the Committee closely for guidance on the regions, scenarios and signposts. To date, the project is seen as a 2-year effort, to be adapted and continued after first milestones have been reached.
- TORs exist and can be made available to the Bureau upon request.
- The project will briefly be presented at the 25th Committee session for information, a parliamentary document is in preparation.

Item 2 Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

- The agenda was adopted as presented.
- Kazakhstan and KazEnergy were invited and participated as observers to this Bureau meeting given the importance of the preparations of the 7th and 8th Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial, and as requested by the Bureau.

Item 3 25th session(s) of the Committee (28-30 September 2016, 19 January 2017)

- Draft agenda for 25th session(s): The Director of the Sustainable Energy Division provided a short overview of the meeting objectives and theme, based on the draft overview provided in attachment 2. The Bureau reaffirmed its intention to split the 25th session of the Committee into two parts to allow for maximum consultation with member States in preparation of the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial to be held in Astana in Kazakhstan on 11 June 2017.
- The theme “Meeting the Challenge of Sustainable Energy” with the Leitmotiv of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was equally adopted.

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- The Bureau was informed that the second part of the 25th session could be held on 19 January 2017. The Bureau approved this proposal.
- Remarks were further made about the importance to allow for discussions about SDGs and the role of UNECE in implementing the energy-related ones, given their cross-cutting nature. Learning from the highly successful 8th Environment Conference in Batumi and the pledges made by 44 Environment Ministers in this context was mentioned as was the wish to have an opportunity to exchange views and experience with other UNECE Committees.
- Length of meetings: The Chair introduced and guided a discussion about future meetings of the Committee. Of particular importance is the objective to organise relevant meetings with the right length to attract more participants from capitals.
- The Bureau discussed in detail the pros and cons of shortened or longer meetings in the context of the subsidiary bodies and their needs of interaction at the United Nations intergovernmental level. It was stressed that given the importance of the Committee on Sustainable Energy as the only intergovernmental body on sustainable energy for the UNECE region, shortened meetings were not to the advantage of a network that is travelling far to participate in the annual meeting. Nevertheless, the Bureau uttered the wish to keep Committee administration to a strict minimum and to concentrate discussions and administration in a strategic way to attract the attention of high-level participants from member States. This also reaffirms earlier discussions at the 24th session of the Committee, in which the Committee requested short reports of sessions and a minimum number of parliamentary documents.
- The Global Tracking Framework: The Director of the Sustainable Energy Division explained outcomes from his recent meetings with Mrs Vivien Foster, Director for the World Bank Global Tracking Framework. There is a concerted effort by the World Bank and the five United Nations Regional Commissions to collaborate for the next edition of the Global Tracking Framework (planned for April 2017) and to drive input through a regional approach. A meeting with all parties involved will be held in Geneva on 24 June 2016 to further elaborate TORs and funding modalities. The current proposal is for the SE4All secretariat under Mrs Rachel Kyte to provide seed money for the initial stage of the project, related to regional data collection, development of indicators and key messages that then could set the stage for a more elaborate piece of work from summer 2017 onwards. Project teams have been formed and UNECE is involved in two of the three chapters on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- This project also presents an excellent opportunity for ministerial level activities at the 8th Forum together with the World Bank Group and SE4All.
- The Bureau suggested to use the day before the Committee on 27 September 2016 for targeted workshops on selected topics of interest, to maximise attendance from member States. Such topics could include Pathways, energy efficiency or the Global Tracking Framework.
- The secretariat will propose a refined outline for the 25th session overview (attached to this email) for further Bureau reactions. The Bureau is invited to comment immediately so that the drafting of the draft provisional agenda for the 25th session (parliamentary

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document with a deadline of 20 July 2016) can begin. The Bureau will receive the draft provisional agenda for final approval before this deadline.

- Bureau elections: The Bureau was reminded that nominations for elections are due for one country, all other Bureau members have been elected until the end of the 26th session. Further nominations are encouraged.
- The secretariat informed that efforts to increase Bureau membership, notably with Norway, have thus far remained unsuccessful. The secretariat further wishes the respective Bureau members to take ownership for selected activities on the mandated programme of work.

Item 4 Activities overseen by the Bureau

- Methane management in extractive industries: The secretariat reported on recent efforts and meetings held in the context of methane management throughout the value-chain in oil and gas. Two immediate actions are being taken: i) a survey about methane management is being developed and will be sent to the UNECE methane network for completion. Results and a strawman for best practice guidance, measuring and reporting will be prepared in time for the 25th session of the Committee. Bureau members confirmed the importance of the topic both from an economic and environmental point of view.
- Budget and resourcing strategy: The secretariat confirmed the needs for extrabudgetary resources for the full implementation of its mandated programme of work. The Director of Sustainable Energy explained his recent outreach to the European Commission, Germany, Norway and United States. He further elaborated on three specific funding approaches: i) Funding future activities of the United Nations Framework Classification and its application to renewable energy, ii) Energy efficiency in buildings in the context of a mapping exercise to better understand which standards exist and in which areas the biggest impact can be experienced and iii) Pathways to Sustainable Energy (as mentioned above).
- The Director explained efforts of collaboration with the energy efficiency passive house community, who have been speakers at previous annual Committee sessions. The development of a principles based performance standard based on a global community of architects, engineers and governments could pave the way to a more successful approach in energy efficiency in the built environment. Essentially this approach will be trying to shed light onto the question of how to deliver quality of life through energy efficiency standards in buildings. The CEO of Siemens and leader of this effort has been invited to the 25th session of the Committee to explain how the mobilisation of the passive house community could deliver through the UNECE platform. We will keep the Bureau informed about developments.
- Other projects mentioned in this context comprise the SE4All effort to hire consultants in support of the regional efforts of the Global Tracking Framework (see above), and the next tranche of the UN Development Account (UNDA) projects. Particularly the UNDA project would be an ideal input to the next phase of the GTF as national action plans on sustainable energy will be prepared for five UNECE member States: Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan.
- Bureau members recommended to work closely with other organisations and key partners like the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) for

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efforts in energy efficiency or the Clean Energy Ministerial process (CEM), now to be housed at the International Energy Agency, for technology and innovation.

- The open question remains if the establishment of a trust fund for the activities of the sustainable energy subprogramme could allow more flexibility and efficiency in its implementation.

Item 5 International fora on Energy for Sustainable Development and Energy Ministerial

- This part of the agenda covered preparations for the 7th and 8th International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development in Baku and Astana, in October 2016 and June 2017, respectively.
- Draft documents, concept notes, timelines and draft outcome documents have been distributed to the Bureau for discussion and input. The same documents have been sent to all project partners including the other four regional Commissions with a deadline of 4 July for reactions.
- The representatives from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan confirmed their intention to collaborate in the run up to the various meetings, and to present intentions and progress to the 25th session of the Committee. The invitations for the ministerial event will be sent by Kazakhstan.
- The secretariat stressed the importance of linking the intended outcomes with the Committee process and the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and thus the 25th and 26th sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.
- The secretariat described the process for the outcome documents taking into considerations the recommendations already made by the Bureau during its last meeting in March 2016. Content-wise there is an intention to build on the outcomes from previous fora, notably the fifth and sixth fora in Hammamet, Tunisia, and Yerevan, Armenia. Especially the Hammamet Declaration as drafted by the five Regional Commissions constitute a good basis for discussion. Process-wise, member States will be invited to a consultation process about the outcome documents and draft ministerial statement, beginning with the issuance of two parliamentary documents for the 25th session (see annexes 3 and 5 to 8), which can then be further refined at the 7th Forum in Baku and the second session of the 25th session of the Committee on 19 January 2017.
- Representatives from Kazakhstan stressed the intention to integrate the ministerial outcome document into the *Manifesto of Values* for EXPO 2017. A respective working group would be created at a later stage and the Bureau will be informed of progress.
- There is further a possibility to have any statements endorsed by first the Committee on Sustainable Energy, followed by the UNECE Commission in its April 2017 session.
- Recommendations by the Bureau included to shorten the ministerial statement to a minimum with a focus on action oriented suggestions. Further, some Bureau members drew attention to the high number of competing ministerial events in energy in the region within the same spring time frame, notably the next CEM ministerial to be hosted by China in June 2017 and the traditional Energy Ministerial of the International Energy Agency. The INOGATE process also intends to hold a ministerial meeting in Kazakhstan during EXPO 2017 as does SE4All. The Bureau recommended to define the type of ministerial and outcome messages early and to seek partnerships where possible. Kazakhstan could play a key role of coordination in this context.

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6. AOB

The next in-person Bureau meeting could be offered on 27 September 2016, the day before 25th Committee session, should the Bureau wish to meet.
